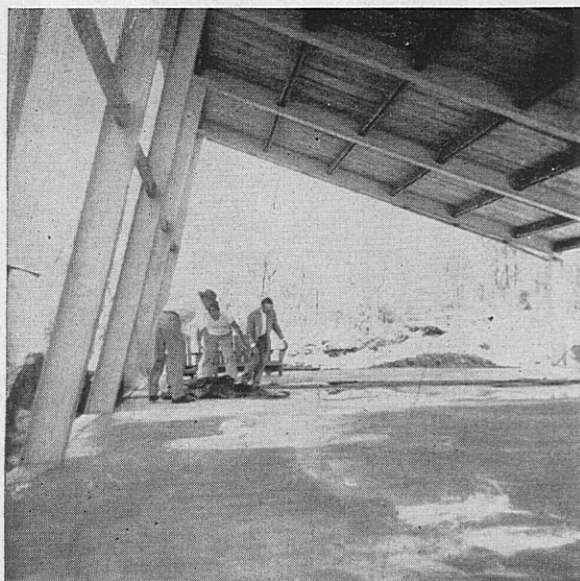
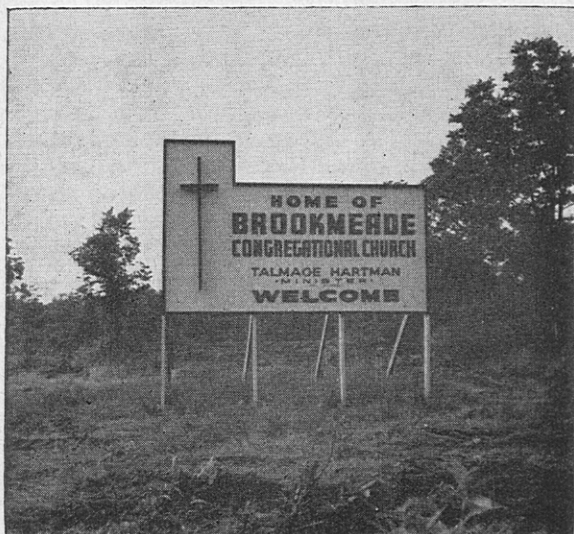


The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 3 - Number 5

FEBRUARY, 1955



**OUR NEWEST NEW CHURCH - NASHVILLE BROOKMEADE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Church Builders Club Edition

OPERATION HYMNBOOK

Within a few weeks a number of our churches will be singing the great hymns of the church from new hymnbooks, thanks to the Army and Navy and to a host of folks involved in "Operation Hymnbook."

It all began when Mrs. George E. Butterfield saw some surplus Army, Navy Hymnbooks at the Mill End Store in Bay City, Michigan. She told Ira Butterfield about them and he suggested sending some to the Atlanta Butterfields. A sample arrived by special delivery one midnight, followed by a call from George E. Butterfield asking if we could use some. Of course we could!

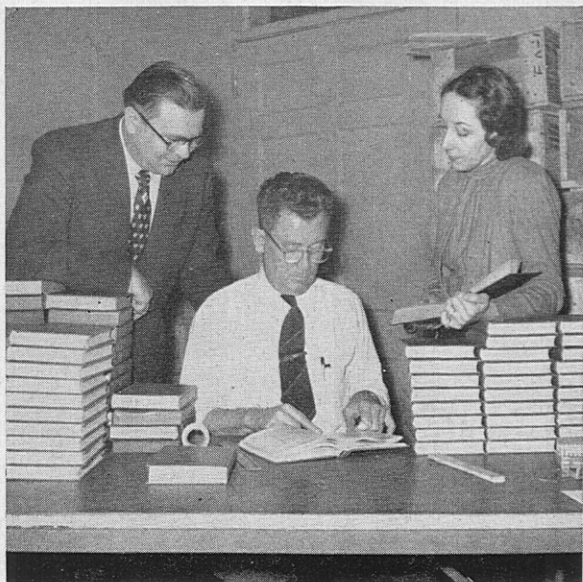
So the Bay City Butterfields went to work. With the help of two Mill End warehouse men they sorted over the whole supply, picking out only the books in a nearly-new condition. They sorted, boxed, labeled, carted and shipped 1,000 hymnbooks to the Atlanta office of Congregational Christian Churches, paying the \$79.45 freight bill from their benevolent giving budget. -

At this point the Railway Express took over. When the 43 wooden boxes arrived, there was no place in the office to store them, so the Joyland Gardens (wholesale florists) graciously permitted us to store them in their building next door to Central Church.

Next came the big job of sealing off the pages in each hymnbook devoted to the Roman Catholic and Jewish faiths. The picture below shows Frank Gordon, Georgia Conference Layman-at-large, busily engaged at that task, while Superintendent Butterfield and Mrs. Albright look on. His volunteer assistants from Central Church were Mrs. Carleton Evans, Mrs. Walter Jackson, and others.

Then a letter was prepared, mimeographed and mailed telling of the availability of the Army-Navy Hymnbooks and offering them to churches at the low, low bargain price of 25c a volume, or 40 hymnbooks for \$10.

Operation Hymnbook is almost over. Our sincere thanks go to all those who labored that we might sing.



Year Book — 1954

The 1954 reports from churches of the Southeast Convention have been tabulated, and the reports sent in to the General Council Year Book Department to be used for the denominational Year Book.

Ministers serving churches will receive their copy of the Year Book through the "Pastor's Mailing List". The church clerk will receive a copy **upon request.**

All other ministers are entitled to a copy, without charge, upon request to the Year Book Department.

Several church clerks had notations on their church report blanks that they would like to receive a copy of the Year Book. Mrs. Henry J. Steele, editor of the Year Book, states, "We would prefer to have the requests from ministers (not serving churches) and from church clerks come to us from the individual, thereby eliminating duplication." So please send a post card at once to the Year Book Department, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., requesting your copy.

The Year Book will be ready for mailing sometime in late June or July of 1955.

1954 Statistics

Since it will be several months before you receive your copy, we are reporting that the total membership of the Southeast Convention has been increased by 71. Total gain was 934, but total loss was 863. This is a high loss, partly explained by 35 members of a dropped church (Hamilton, Mt. Carmel) and several revisions of church rolls. Let us hope the net gain in 1955 will be greater.

Church School enrollment increased by 419, from 6,004 in 1953 to 6,423 in 1954, and five more churches reported church schools.

Young People's organizations increased by 7 groups, and from 869 members to 1,280—a gain of 411 members. We believe that this increase has been greater, actually, because some churches which have P. F. groups did not report them on the blanks!

There were 27 Vacation Church Schools reported, with a total enrollment of 1,032.

The adult education groups did not show up so well. In 1953 we had 77 reported with an enrollment of 1,643. In 1954 there were only 35 reported with an enrollment of 1,597. Now, we do not believe this is an accurate report, but that pastors and church clerks filling in the blanks did not understand that women's missionary societies, weekly prayer meeting groups, men's groups-- all adult organized groups of the church which offer spiritual enrichment, information on topics related to the church and its work at home and abroad, and have as their purpose enriching the individual and furthering the work of the church, should be included in this report.

Statistics By Association and Conference

Central Association: Gained 99; lost 52—net gain 47 members. 1953 giving was \$376; 1954 giving was \$313. - per member .56. 1955 goal, as set by Decision Cards, is \$1,064.

East Alabama Association: Gained 274; lost 294

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CHURCH BUILDERS' DAY

FEBRUARY 20th

February has been designated as **Church Builders Club Month**, and February 20th as **Church Builders Day**. We are all sincerely hoping that you will give this important project your careful concern and action. Use **Church Builders Day** to enlist as many members as you can for the club. Churches reaching or going beyond the 25% church membership goal will receive a special **AWARD OF MERIT** to be presented after the campaign is over. Already at least seven churches are in this category and with the special **Church Builders Sunday** they will go far beyond that minimum goal.

Facts About the Church Builders Club

The Church Builders Club began as an idea among the churches of the South Georgia Association and leaders who were greatly concerned with the need for a more effective program of church extension among our Congregational Christian Churches. It was organized August 30, 1953 as The Gideon Club of Church Builders. The name was changed the next year in order to avoid confusion with another club known as The Gideons. The Church Builders Club now has over 500 members, many of other denominations and from states outside the Southeast Convention.

The purpose of the club, as stated in the Constitution, is "to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing in the task of building His Church within the fellowship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Churches".

Membership is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute Five Dollars or more for each new church project which is approved by the Board of Trustees of the Club and by the Southeast Convention. Any member may terminate his membership at any time by returning his membership card, together with a statement of his desired action, to the Secretary.

How the Church Builders Club will operate is outlined in the Constitution as follows:

"Requests for Grant Aid to new church projects shall be received by the President or Secretary and referred to the Board of Trustees, who shall make a survey to determine the wisdom and worthiness of the project. (They will be assisted in their study by the Survey and Church Aid Committee of the Southeast Convention.) After due consideration they will vote upon the request. If the vote is favorable, they will notify all members of the action so that pledges may be promptly paid and the necessary funds placed in a local bank in the community where the new church is located to be drawn upon in equal proportion to what the church raises above the price of the lot. Aid to any one church shall not exceed Five Thousand Dollars.

"Churches receiving such aid are expected to report on their building progress from time to

time to the Board of Trustees. . . To qualify for Grant Aid a new church must belong to an association or conference having a club membership equal to 25% or more of the total active membership of the Congregational Christian churches within the given area at the time the request is made." This last condition was adopted in order to assure continued participation on the part of Church Builders throughout the Convention, and so the load would not be on any one area. This means that every church should have a minimum goal equal to 25% of its membership.

Funds not being used will remain in the Church Builders Club account and the interest used for operational and promotional expenses. Members may pay as many pledges as they wish at any one time, thus insuring their help in building churches for many years to come. Some entire families have joined, and at least one member has paid 20 pledges in advance!

Present officers of the club are: Henry Weaver, president; Mrs. Sam Thomason, vice-president; W. C. Carpenter, secretary and membership treasurer; Montez Albright, promotional treasurer; Trustees—D. S. Hogg, G. E. Turner, Mrs. H. Y. Sears, D. H. Long, W. C. Carpenter, Jr., E. M. Butterfield, A. B. Snell, Odell Yancy, and W. J. Abell, Jr. *Richland*

Florida Likes Our Idea

In the November issue of the **Florida Congregational News**, the Rev. Robbins Ralph, Minister of Church Extension, writes under the title of "A Club For Everything". . .

Americans have a club for most everything—rocking chair sitters, barber shop singers and pipe organ pumpers, for example. Florida Congregationalists are forming a new club—of Church Builders! They've done it in the Southeast Convention, our neighboring conference to the north. We like the idea, too. How does it work?

When the undersigned belonged to the Madeira Beach Volunteer Fire Company, he had a chance to join the state Firemen's Death Benefit Fund. Each member pays his dues only on call. When a fireman dies, the widow receives a check representing the total membership.

We're going to celebrate beginnings, not endings! Everyone who joins pays initial dues, and that gives us something to aid the next church extension project that comes to birth in Florida. Members will pay henceforth only as each project is started and certified for a benefit.

On October 26 the Board of Directors of the Florida Congregational Christian Conference voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Church Extension Committee and authorize such a plan.

The Directors determined that any cost of printing, mailing and bookkeeping will be paid out of the Conference budget, so that every cent raised is for acquiring a site, erecting a first unit,

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt.Editor
Rev. C. Carl Dollar.....Director, Extension Service
Mrs. Ed. A. AlbrightRegistrar
Mrs. Jettie LoganPromotion

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Year Book - 1954

(From page 2)

—net loss 20 members. 1953 giving was \$3,345 (including West Point Bethel) and 1954 giving was \$3,269.—per member \$1.02. 1955 Goal \$4,864.

North Alabama Association: Gained 68; lost 79 plus 35 from dropped church—net loss 46 members. 1953 giving was \$794; 1954 giving was \$531.—per member .65. 1955 Goal \$1,370.

South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association: Gained 46; lost 20—net gain 26 members. 1953 giving \$369; 1954 giving \$402—per member. 53. 1955 Goal \$1,041.

Georgia-South Carolina Conference: Gained 327; lost 322—net gain 5 members. 1953 giving was \$3,051; 1954 giving was \$3,930—\$1.21 per member. Goal for 1955, \$7,129.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference: Gain 120; lost 61—net gain 59 members. 1953 giving was \$3,983; 1954 giving was \$4,690—\$4 per member. 1955 Goal is \$4,636. (with decision cards from four churches still not in.)

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION TOTALS: 1953 Giving was \$12,919; 1954 Giving was \$14,590—an increase of \$1,671, including Direct Giving and gifts from individuals. 1955 minimum goal is \$20,104, which means considerable increase!

Home Expenses: 1953 total \$262,534; 1954 total \$276,919—a gain of \$14,385.

Value of Church Properties: 1953 total \$2,315,305. 1954 total \$2,534,410—an increase of \$219,105.

Other Gifts: This phase of the giving has shown a decrease, but this item was left blank on so many of the reports.

When you receive your 1955 church report blanks next December, please make every effort to fill in each item as accurately as possible, even though it means checking with the church treasurer, the S. S. superintendent, the presidents of the auxiliary organizations, etc. The Year Book report of the Southeast Convention should be a tangible record of our growth in every phase of the work of the church, and it is important.

—Montez Albright, Registrar

ONE GREAT HOUR

MARCH 20

According to the Rev. Earle H. Ballou, executive secretary of the Congregational Christian Service Committee, the **One Great Hour of Sharing** will come this year on Sunday, March 20th. Observed by thousands of churches of many denominations across the land, it no longer needs to be justified or even explained. It has in fact become a landmark in the Lenten pilgrimage of our church people. For who can follow the Master on his last journey up to Jerusalem without turning aside on the Jericho road to answer the cry of the sufferer beside the way?

The emergency needs of our fellow men continue. Hunger and homelessness have diminished, it is true, in Europe and to some extent in Korea—and aid brought by "One Great Hour" has helped to make the difference. But dire need is unabated in the Near East and Hong Kong, and it has suddenly erupted in Indo-China. The spirit of the compassionate Christ must constrain us to do what we can to alleviate the want and despair that rule in the lives of so many in this "Age of the Homeless Man".

Filmstrips Available

Two excellent filmstrips are available from the Convention office after mid-February. One is "Close-up" in black and white for adults. The other is "The Travelin' Man" in color for children. The Rev. Annie R. Campbell has seen both these filmstrips and especially recommends them. A limited supply of envelopes, etc., is also available from the Convention office. Get your requests in early—the films and envelopes will go out on a "first come, first served" basis.

Share Our Surplus Report

Alabama

Andalusia Antioch	\$ 8.00
Dadeville Elder	12.27
East Tallassee Liberty	16.10
Garden City	10.00
Lanett	200.00
Roanoke New Hope	2.97
Wadley (community service)	32.00
	\$281.34

Georgia

Atlanta Central	\$203.25
Chipley Oak Grove	24.11
Demorest Federated	53.24
	\$280.60

Kentucky-Tennessee

Evarts First	\$ 14.60
Pleasant Hill Community	46.41
	\$ 61.01
Total	\$622.95

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Our Past, Present and Future

I'm no fortune teller, but I do believe in learning history's lessons, applying them to present needs, and making the most of our opportunities for future growth. This issue of the **Southeast News** is dedicated to the **Church Builders' Club**. We desperately need this club for it can be one of our greatest assets in building churches which can meet the religious needs of the New South. We congregational Christians have been a part of the South from the earliest Colonial days, but never have we been faced with such a mission. Let's take a look at ourselves.

Our Past

The history of the Congregational Christian movement in the area of the Southeast Convention has not as yet been published, but when it is the pages will be filled with stories of heroic adventures, daring exploits, noble service, fearful struggles, dark disillusionments, and dismal failures.

Congregationalists were a part of the South as early as 1681, when old Circular Church was established in Charleston, S. C. They played an important part in the fight for freedom. The Royal Governor blamed the 20 or more Congregational churches for carrying Georgia with the Colonies. Two of the signers of the Declaration of Independence came from a Congregational Church in Georgia.

We had 20 churches with perhaps 1000 members among the Cherokee and Choctaw Indians during the period from 1912 to 1840. Two Congregational ministers went to prison defending Indian rights.

The "Plan of Union" hit the South with terrific force, sweeping many of our most promising churches into the Presbyterian fold.

Prior to the Civil War our churches led in the anti-slavery movement. The war brought controversy and division and many a church struggled to the death.

After the Civil War, we established 500 schools throughout the South, mostly for Negroes. One by one they were taken over by local educational agencies or closed because they had served their purpose and were no longer needed. In most cases no semblance of a denominational church existed or survived. (Neither the Negroes nor the whites of the South are aware of the great debt they owe the Congregational Christians.)

In 1888 the Congregational Methodists, an indigenous Southern group, became interested in our movement. They were native Southern Churches and this was, surprisingly enough, during the time of Reconstruction. It was they who furnished most of the Home Missionaries who around 1900 ranged the South, holding revivals and organizing churches.

The Christian movement began spreading through the area about 75 years ago, and a spirited, aggressive leadership established rural

churches throughout the Southeast. About the same time our work began in the Tennessee Mountains where we established a number of mission churches.

By 1912 the Congregational and the Christian churches in the Southeast area numbered over 300. After 1918 the death rate among the Congregational churches, and to a lesser degree among the Christian churches, was staggering—due mainly to the fact that the movement was predominantly rural, and as our people migrated to the towns and cities they failed to take their churches. In the next decade our movement came near to extinction!

Then came the merger of 1931. The union brought numerical strength, but soon a confusion of organization and a series of internal conflicts in some of the larger churches took a heavy toll in membership. Two decades after the merger we numbered only 125 churches with a total membership under 10,000.

Our Present

Today within the changing Southland there is a growing need for a free, democratic, liberal church movement. None of the "major" denominations within the South are capable of meeting that need. The South today presents our greatest opportunity and most urgent mission. "The old order changeth, yielding place to new". And with the coming of the new day thousands of church-going Southerners and migrating "Yankees" find themselves without a church home. The old established churches still cling tenaciously to the outmoded ways, narrow, legalistic, dogmatic theology, and their other-worldly concerns. If religion is to make a decisive contribution to the new South, it must be through minority groups like ours—through churches which are concerned with life at its best here and now; churches with a message for these times; churches that are inclusive rather than exclusive; churches that have a sense of mission.

Several years ago, Dr. Ross Sanderson, who at the time was Director of our National Department of Research, conducted a study of our Southeast Region. Speaking of the opportunity for service facing our churches he wrote:

"Do we wish to survive in strength, and develop leaders for more adequate churchmanship? Merely to look down our noses at others who outbreed us, outthink us, outgive us, and outevangelize us will get us nowhere, except to gradual oblivion. The fact that we are a minority need not discourage us, any more than it does the younger churches on other continents, or than it did the first Followers of the Way when the whole Christian movement was a tiny minority in a pagan world. As the claim of 'quality' is a lame alibi for lack of effort to grow, so the lack of size in no way prevents our accelerating our program. On

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CLEVELAND ECHOES

From January 20 to 27 the Midwinter Meetings of our denomination were held at the Hotel Cleveland, Ohio.

As usual the Southeast Convention was well represented. Supt. Butterfield participated in the Superintendent's Conference, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell shared in the Christian Education Council, Mrs. Lowell A. Smoot of Soddy-Daisy, Mrs. H. Y. Sears of Pearson, and Mrs. John Fralic of Tallassee represented us in the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women. President Clyde C. Flannery of Southern Union was there for the meeting of the directors of the Council for Social Action. Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds of Pleasant Hill Community Church and Center were there for the A.M.A. sessions, and, of course, we claim Walter Graham, the National Director of the Laymen's Fellowship.

During the sessions our Every Church Canvass program and promotional filmstrip, "Our Day of Decision", came up several times for discussion. Our pioneering efforts in this field may be recommended by the Missions Council as a technique which should be tried throughout the nation. Several state conferences have asked for copies of "Our Day of Decision" and for a file of procedures for the Every Church Canvass with the intention of using our plan.

Toward the end of the sessions, the Convention was honored by having our Women's Fellowship President, Mary Margaret Smoot, elected to the Executive Committee of the National Women's Fellowship. Mrs. Edgar A. Bark of Wauwatosa, Wis., is the new national President succeeding Mrs. W. Bayard Buckahm of Oakland, Cal.

"Our Christian World Mission Being Built to His Plan" was the theme for this year's meetings. The following excerpts from an address by Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive President of the Board of Home Missions, indicates the spirit of the meetings and the depth of our concern for our churches upon which lies the responsibility for the fulfillment of "Our Christian World Mission".

"... The church exists for nothing else but to be a mission, and it partakes of the nature of the True Church in precisely the degree that it is involved in the mission. . . . What shall it profit the Christian movement if it gain a thousand local congregations while at the same time two thousand lose their sense of outgoing concern for their missionary purpose, and thereby surrender their real right to be called churches? . . . A 'revival' of religion is frequently simply a dilution of religion. A 'return to faith' may mean that a strong and adequate faith has been softened and sentimentalized so as to make it popularly acceptable. A turning to the church may mean that men are profoundly in need of something the church has to give; but it may also mean that the church is misrepresenting its gospel by requiring no acceptance of responsibility—that it is handing out spiritual bon-bons instead of demanding enlistment in mission. . . . Not one of the major Protestant denominations, if it is honest, can be certain that there has been a gain in

the number of congregations of the Living Church—authentic communities of responsible Christians who know that they are called to a mission of truth, love and compassion among men. Any honest appraisal will recognize that many congregations have actually deserted the church to become self-centered spiritual clubs. Their worship is not centered upon the God of grace who delivers them from self-obsession and sends them out to give themselves with thankfulness and joy to their brethren. Their worship celebrates the American middle class idols of prudence, cautiousness, respectability, success, and the puerile pleasures of positive thinking.

"The next chapter in the record of Christian advance depends on holding in dynamic tension two facts concerning the mission of the church. The object and purpose of that mission in the church is not a 'churchy' church, but a church whose human concerns are as broad as the love of Christ. The purpose of the Christian mission is the growth of that community of truly free persons—liberated from self-concern and thus enabled to live thankfully, joyfully and trustfully with one another. This community is the true Christian Church. . .

"This church, as soon as it comes into being, knows that it exists for a mission. It is a church only to the degree that it is also a mission. It stands in the apostolic succession not by claiming an unbroken succession of apostolic officers and functionaries but by giving itself humbly to the apostolic task. It is holy and apostolic only as it is self-forgetful and missionary. It has been given its life in order to lose it. The losing of its life through the sharing of its gift of love and faith is missions—is the mission."

—Erston M. Butterfield

My Trip To Cleveland

This was my first trip to the denominational Midwinter Meetings in Cleveland, Ohio, as president of the Alabama Women's Fellowship. As the train neared Cleveland I felt happy and I felt scared. I had never been to a national meeting such as this and I wasn't sure just what would be expected of me. I knew that the state presidents, superintendents, Christian education workers and many of the national board members and members from the General Council would be there and I wondered if I would be able to feel at home and as if I really belonged to the same fellowship.

But from the moment I arrived I knew I had nothing to be afraid of because everyone was so friendly and there was the spirit of one big fellowship all the way through. We were so busy we did not have time to be lonely. We even had to work as we ate!

When I first received my "bluebook" — an outline of all the meetings scheduled, I noticed on the cover these words, "Being built to His plan". In this work we work with God, which means that

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Pilgrim Circuit Rider

A lady "Circuit Rider on Wheels", the Rev. Lelia W. Anderson, Congregational Christian minister and educationalist, is making a coast to coast tour in a specially equipped station wagon, named the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider", which will make church history. Miss Anderson will be in the Southeast Convention March 15 thru April.

The plan on which the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider" works is as old as the beginning of the United States when a Circuit Rider, equipped with a Bible and hymn book, traveled on horseback from church to church giving inspiration and instruction. The "Pilgrim Circuit Rider" is equipped with a built-in office, display cases, and materials on the church and its world-wide mission in printed form and in audio-visual aid equipment.

Miss Anderson began her circuit riding Sept. 1, 1953, in Wyoming and expects to continue through 1955, visiting 21 states reaching from coast to coast. This project of the Board of Home Missions is financed by gifts from the men, women and children of this denomination.

Through the printed word, pictures, recordings, and various types of audio visual aids, Miss Anderson will help our churches learn how to build better church schools, raise money for worthy projects, improve worship services, and become better acquainted with the overseas work of the Congregational Christian Churches.

The Rev. Lelia W. Anderson was born and raised on a farm in central Illinois and her roots are deep in the soil. She attended Monmouth College and the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. She was a country school teacher before going into Christian work as a career and in 1940 became the State Director of Christian Education for South Dakota.

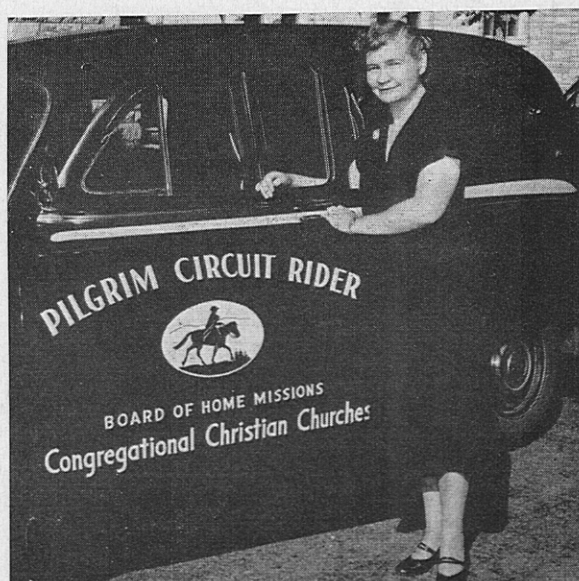
In 1946 Miss Anderson was called to the national post of Field Representative of the Congregational Christian Churches under the Board of Home Missions Department of Christian Education with headquarters in South Dakota. This work she carried on until the spring of 1953 when she took a three months tour which included visits to parts of Europe, the Near East, Egypt, India, Ceylon, Malaya, the Philippines, and Japan.

Churches of the Southeast Convention are eagerly anticipating a visit from Miss Anderson, and the response to her visit has been tremendous. Schedules are being made out and churches will be notified of the dates when Miss Anderson can visit them.

SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

(From page 5)

the contrary, our task though complicated is one quite within our mental grasp, our resources, and our powers of achievement. However, its accomplishment will not be automatic. We can plan, or we can drift, as Odum would say. Merely to drift might land us in some pocket of futility, some eddy of inconsequential routine. To plan wisely and work vigorously should enable us to play a modest



MISS ANDERSON AND STATION WAGON

but increasingly significant role in the region and in the economy of the Kingdom."

These are the words of one who has studied well our problems, our history, and our opportunities. He urges that we look backward at what we can learn from experience, look around at what we can learn from observation, and look forward to see where we are going.

Our Future

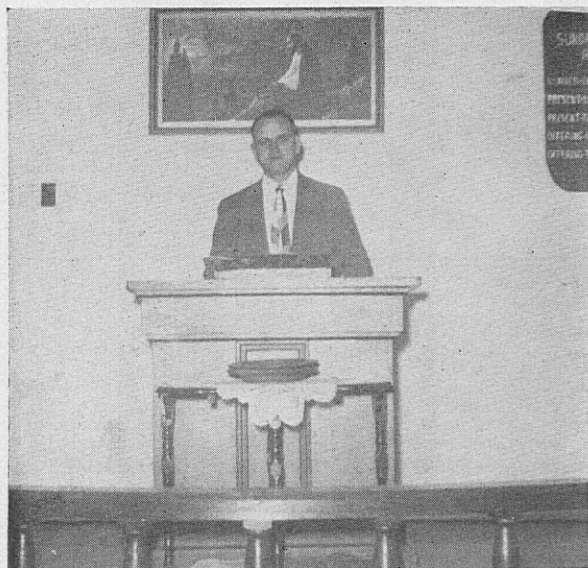
In his scholarly and extensive survey, Dr. Sanderson has faced frankly the weaknesses and mistakes of the past, but has also caught a glimpse of the part we Congregational Christians are destined to play in the coming liberal, ecumenical advance within the religious patterns of the New South. "If ecumenicity is to achieve strong and permanent status in the Southeast, bodies like ours must lead off. It is native to our genius to do so. Only, let us contribute not weakness but strength, not appeasement but self-respect, not sterility but zeal and the contagion of a vital faith."

So, if we are to fulfill our mission and achieve our denominational hopes in the South, we must gain strength by building churches, especially in the metropolitan areas. Atlanta, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Charleston, Memphis—these are our only metropolitan churches. The next few years must see us expanding our city work to supplement the rural efforts which have been our main concern in past years. The Southeast Convention needs strong churches able to contribute numerical and financial stability to our total program. Louisville, Biloxi, Knoxville, Gadsden, Columbus, Augusta, Macon, Savannah, Montgomery, Pensacola, Mobile and many other growing cities present real opportunities for church extension. The Church Builders' Club is one of our best tools for this important task.

So it is with a deep sense of mission that we of the Congregational Christian Churches of the Southeast Convention are determined to "plan wisely" and "work vigorously" to develop an or-

(Please turn to page 11)

Church News



REV. SHREVE

The Rev. Thomas F. Shreve began his official duties as pastor of **Mt. Olive Church** of Tallassee, Ala., on December 19, 1954. The congregation is making plans for much progress under his leadership.

Mr. Shreve was born in Auburn, N. Y. He served three years in the U. S. Army as an information specialist with the 519th Airborne Quartermaster, Parachute Maintenance Co., at Fort Benning, Ga. During that time he met Janell Stewart, native of Wadley, Ala., who at that time was working with the Georgia State Dept. of Public Health in Atlanta. While he was still in the service they were married on April 5, 1953.

After his release from the Army, Mr. Shreve returned to New York and remained until August 1954, at which time he returned to Alabama and enrolled in Southern Union College. Mr. and Mrs. Shreve have a daughter, Sharon Janell, born Oct. 20, 1954.

In addition to his duties as pastor, Mr. Shreve drives 120 miles each day to attend college. Upon completion of his college work he plans to enroll in Seminary.

* * *

"Let's make our Christmas Christian" was the goal of the Pilgrim Fellowship group at **Good Hope Church** near Baker this Christmas. These young people presented an excellent play, "The Faithful Pioneer" by Rega Kramer McCarty at our church on Christmas night. Many compliments were received and we recommend it to any church. Our pastor, the Rev. Ralph Worley, was well pleased with it and the young people performed their parts well.

After the play, as another step toward making Christmas Christian and giving something to Christ on His birthday instead of to everyone else but Him, we had a Christmas Tree for Christ. The donations received amounted to \$18 and will be sent to the Lucy Perry Noble Institute



ALICE FAYE BROWN

Pictured above is Alice Faye Brown, aged 12, pianist for the Seman Church after only three years of study.

At our last Communion Sunday services we had a very large crowd with visitors from Tallassee, Eclectic, Equality and Montgomery. Our service that evening was most impressive. All lights were out except the yellow pulpit light, which shown on the cross that was placed there. After the scripture was read, everyone who wanted to rededicate his life to God for greater service in 1955 stood in a circle around the Communion table with bowed heads while prayer was offered. We then took the Bread and Wine with greater consecration and determination to live better and do more for our church and community.

The Rev. Carl Dollar, director of the Christian Rural Extension Service, brought the message to us on Jan. 23rd and everyone enjoyed his visit and his help.

—Mrs. Fannie Mae Brown, reporter

* * *

The people of **Lafayette Pleasant Grove Church** enjoy meeting together on special occasions. Each Christmas the Missionary Society women invite their families to join them in fellowship. After the meeting was adjourned we had a family Christmas tree. Each of the wives presented her husband with a toy musical instrument and insisted they play for us. After a rendition of "Jingle Bells" and "Here Comes Santa Claus", we enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by the Missionary Society.

On Christmas morning we met at the church for an hour of songs, prayer and meditation. Everyone present received spiritual inspiration from this service. —Mrs. Byron Welch, reporter

as payment for another six months schooling for our adopted daughter in India.

—Ida Mae Gunter, reporter

The Women's Fellowship and the Laymen of Jan. 10th. The Christian Social Action Committee the **East Tallassee Church** held a joint meeting on was in charge of the program, which was of interest to everyone.

—Mrs. Chas. Messer, reporter

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A great deal of progress has been made at **Lowell Church**, Roanoke, Ala., under the leadership of the Rev. David W. Clark.

In October the church conducted an Every Member Canvass - the first time for the church. While results were good in terms of finances, we felt the best results were with the men who took the canvass. They realized that here is an opportunity to get into the homes of our people each year and let them know what the church is doing here and around the world.

The young people are taking part in the evening services and have organized an "all youth" choir.

The church is now engaged in promoting an attendance campaign. The plan is proceeding along this line: Each person has been given a card to keep his own church attendance record. Also, everyone has been asked to take extra cards to give friends who in turn will be asked to sign and bring to church each Sunday. The campaign will end on Easter Sunday, when each person will turn in his card with the number of times present during the period. We are hoping that attendance will increase one-third.

—David W. Clark, Pastor

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The Antioch Church of Andalusia is very happy to have Mrs. Raymond Berry, the pastor's wife, working with us in different groups in the church. Since she came here in the fall she has been a great help to us.

The church now has a Religious Education Committee of which Albert Baisden is chairman. Each member represents a certain church group:

Mrs. G. B. Adams, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Seth Ray Stewart; and Miss Loretta Merrill. They are responsible for studying the church school curriculum, seeing that each class has a teacher and a substitute teacher, setting the Sunday School goals for the year, sponsoring missionary projects and seeing that each class has the proper equipment with which to work. The pastor, Rev. Raymond Berry, and Mrs. Berry are working with this committee.

The pastor and his wife held open house at the parsonage on January 2nd. Members and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship. They toured the house and grounds and discussed improvements which need to be made. For refreshments Mrs. Berry served cookies, cup cakes, punch and coffee.

—Winnie Dye, reporter

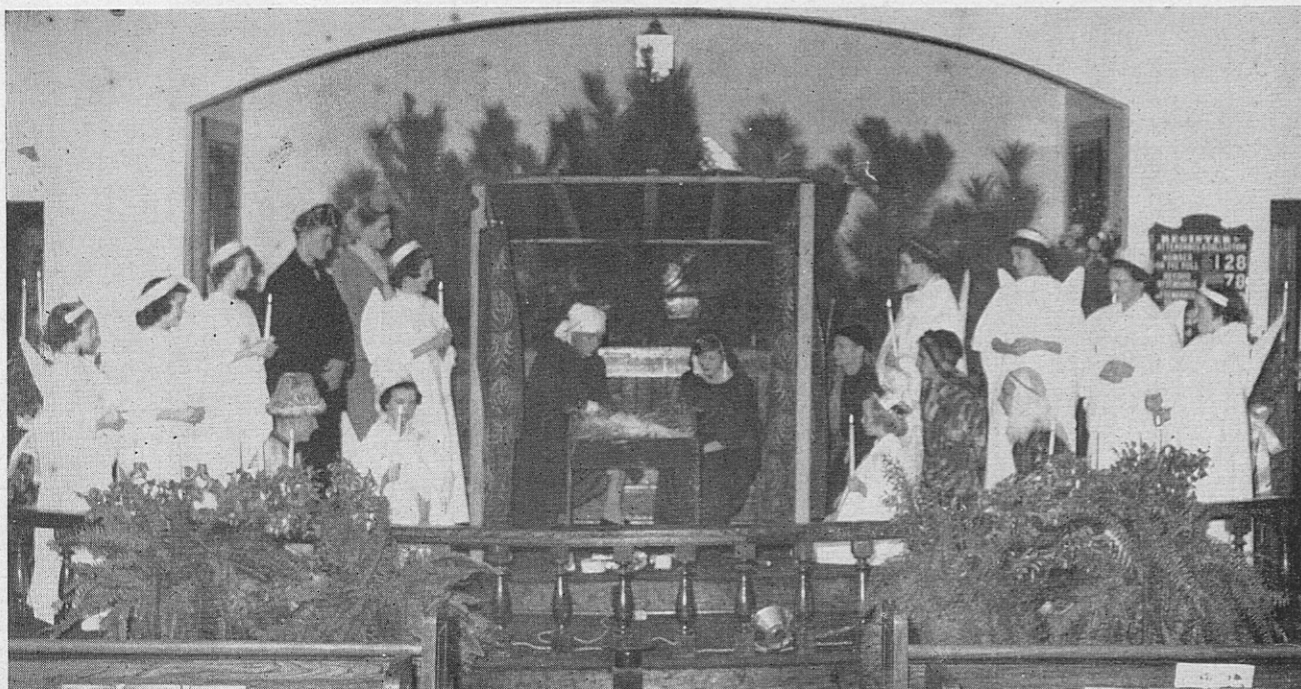
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The **Dorcas Church** of Crestview is happy to have the Rev. Ralph Worley with us once again as pastor. We have heartily welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Worley and sincerely hope their stay with us will be long and enjoyable.

The young people of the church have organized a Pilgrim Fellowship under the leadership of Mrs. John Powell. Their aim is to do better in our church, be better Christians and to win others to Christ. The group consists of 20 members and officers will be elected soon.

At a recent congregational meeting, new officers were elected for the church as follows: Mrs. John Powell, Clerk; Mrs. Nora Booth, Treasurer; Deacons: Ollie B. Gatlin and John Powell; Trustee, Foy Spann. New leaders for Sunday School were also appointed. They are, Superintendent, Murdoc McCallum; Asst. Supt., Mrs. Maurine McCallum; Song Leader, Mrs. Jack Powell; and Pianist, Hilda Booth.

Under the leadership of Mrs. McCallum, a bulletin board has been set up with a chart for lesson study. The person who has the most stars by



"Adoration of Kings and Shepherds", a pageant presented at Lowell Church on Christmas.

his name at the end of the quarter will receive a nice gift.

—Mrs. Jack Powell, reporter

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The **Lanett Church** sponsored a Family Finance Institute, January 17-21, open to all in the church and community who desired to take advantage of the opportunity to learn methods of improving family finance.

Experts in each field were speakers, with the assistance of well qualified people as panel members. Topics were as follows: More and Better Food for Your Grocery Dollar; Economical Buying of Clothing and Furniture; Making and Following a Family Budget; Teaching Children to Earn and Spend Money; and Savings, Investments and Insurance.

There was good attendance and everyone found the institute very helpful.

New equipment is coming in for the church kitchen. Mrs. Clarence Edwards donated an electric range, the Jr. Women's Circle gave a 48-cup coffee urn and the Dorcas Circle purchased a refrigerator.

C. H. Russell, an honorary deacon who is retired from his active business activity, has been making some handsome church furnishings. To date he has finished three lecturns, a prayer bench, three easels and five bulletin boards.

Another member, Junior Miles, finished the lecturns and bench to match the other church furnishings.

Work has begun on the development of the south wing ground floor which will have class rooms and two rest rooms.

A report from the Missionary Auxiliary reveals a profit of \$334 for the organ fund was made during November and December through concerts, dinners and cakes.

The Fellowship Class enjoyed a delicious barbecued chicken plate on January 15th, prepared by O. D. Sorrell, Frank Moon, Herbert Alexander, Fred Lashley and John Dollar, Jr. About 25 were present. Mrs. Gladys Carlisle is teacher.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

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The women of **Elder Church** and community met January 26th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Duck and quilted a quilt they had pieced for their pastor, the Rev. Donald Ross and family. Each lady brought a basket of food which was spread at noon.

The young people have decided to hold their meetings on Sunday afternoons rather than at night. They are hoping to have better attendance with this change.

The Rev. Ross asked the president of the WMS, the church clerk and the Church treasurer to send in reports of work done by the different groups during 1954. This was compiled and made into our Church Report for 1954. Copies of this were given out the third Sunday in January, and were enjoyed by all as the report gave everyone an opportunity to see what had been done and also brought to mind things that should be done in 1955.

—Mrs. Woodroe Washburn, reporter

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Twice during January the men and boys outnumbered the women and girls in the congrega-

tion of the **Circular Church** of Charleston, and on all Sundays they make up from 40% to 50% of the congregation. This is due partly to the number of service men in attendance, but credit should also go to the very active "Men's Steak Club". Once a month the Rev. Archie B. Bedford, a cook of long experience, dons his apron and with two men assisting prepares a steak dinner for the men. President Bill Bender then presents an interesting program, a Jewish rabbi being our January speaker. This club makes the men feel at home in the church and it has already brought a number of new men into the church life.

Mr. Bedford, in addition to his regular work as pastor, preaches at The Citadel for their chapel services, appears on television and speaks on radio programs, and has spoken at both the Naval Base and Army Transport Depot, presenting a series of talks on character guidance.

Commander Wm. Matney and Commander Howard Moore, of the Sixth Naval District Legal Staff, have been received into membership in the church.

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Macedonia Church, Braselton, Ga., one of the four churches of the North Georgia Parish, undertook two major building tasks for this winter. One was to refloor the church sanctuary. The new hardwood floor was finished during the fall, and added considerably to the appearance of the sanctuary.

The second project was the installation of a gas heating system replacing an old wood stove. Gas was installed last week.

In addition to these two projects, the church pews have been repainted and all the church doors have been replaced with new ones. The committee appointed by the church to look after these building projects was composed of Robert Lackey, Robert Emmett and Otis Cash.

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The highlight of the Christmas season at **Sardis Church** of Oxford was the service of Holy Communion held December 19th at 7:30 p. m. Traditionally held on Christmas Eve, this year it was scheduled a week early to give the pastor, the Rev. Scott Morris, Jr., a Christmas vacation that he might attend the celebration of his parents' Golden Wedding anniversary in south Georgia. The service was conducted by candlelight except for the shimmering radiance of the large Christmas tree. Special music was furnished by the children's choir and the adult choir. Mrs. Albert Strickland is church organist and Thomas Henderson is choir director.

Altar boys serving at this service were Billy Strickland, Jimmy Henderson, Jack Henderson, and Tommy Henderson. Deacons of the church are Albert Strickland, J. B. Henderson, Thomas Henderson, Harvey Eddleman, LeRoy Henderson, and Jack Hinton.

The congregation of **Pilgrim Church**, Chattanooga, is making plans for the Every Member Canvass, February 14-20. Dr. Warren H. Denison will conduct the training sessions for the canvassers and supervise the canvass. The Church Council has asked Emerson P. Poste to serve as General Chairman to prepare for this event. Others members of this committee are: Joe W. Davis, G. E.

Farmer, F. M. Henley, Dr. W. S. Keese, Don Maguire, R. G. Obrecht, Martin Peyer, Allan Saunders, J. F. Stinecipher, and Eric Swanson.

Members of the Pilgrim Fellowship participated in the morning worship service as part of the Youth Week observance of the church. Their counsellors are: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gregg and Mrs. J. F. Stinecipher.

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On December 19th a fellowship dinner was held at the **Fredonia Church** in Barnesville, followed by a Christmas program presented by the young people of the Sunday School. Mr. and Mrs. Creyton Kilgo of Atlanta presented the church with a two-burner hot plate.

The fellowship dinner, followed by business meetings and choir practice, is a combined event for each Wednesday evening before the Third Sunday each month. At the last meeting R. B. Means was elected Lay Leader of the church, and Calvin Z. Bush was elected chairman of the meetings. Ben H. Bush was elected superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Missionary Society meets each second Tuesday at the homes of the various members. Attendance is good, the programs inspirational, and interest is increasing.

—Miss Janie Bush, reporter

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The annual business meeting for the **Daisy Church** was held January 6th in the Cabin. After a covered dish supper, the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot presided over the meeting. All committees reported a good year in '54 and hopes for a still better year in '55. Officers were elected as follows: Deacons: El F. West, R. C. Webb, James Sanders, Alton Frazier, Claude Pendergrass and K. R. Griswold; Trustees: W. D. Orr, Dillard Blackburn, Ellis Ferry, Don Quick, Paul Lewis, Wyatt Sanders; Deaconesses: Mrs. Mildred Burke, Mrs. Dillard Blackburn, Mrs. E. F. West, Mrs. Paul Davenport, and Miss Elizabeth Carden; Ushers: Claude Pendergrass, Dillard Blackburn and Robert Freeman; Clerk, Mrs. R. C. Webb; Treasurer, Mrs. Don Quick; S. S. Superintendent, K. R. Griswold; Asst. Supt., Robert Freeman; Secretary, Miss Ora Smith; Organist, Mrs. Henry Lewis; Asst. Organist, Mrs. Paul Davenport.

On January 15th the Loyal Alert Class held its monthly meeting in the Cabin with Mrs. Paul Davenport and Mrs. Ellis Ferry as hostesses. At this meeting the class voted for the project of the coming year-- to equip "The Little Church" (for the children). This "Little Church" is growing rapidly and interest is very keen. On January 16th there were 18 present and the weather was terrible. They haven't learned to use the weather for an excuse!

At the January meeting of the Guild, the Daisy women voted to join the Soddy Church for the World Day of Prayer observance. They also voted to purchase a dozen new chairs for the Cabin, as it is now used for a classroom and the assembly room for the "Little Church". It was announced that our friendly service quota was ready for Dillard University. Mrs. Claude Pendergrass had charge of the program, "Conquering the City for Christ". Twenty were present at this meeting, held

in the home of Mrs. W. D. Orr with Mrs. Mamie Lewis as co-hostess.

Five members of Daisy Church attended the Atlanta meeting in January. They were: Rev. and Mrs. Lowell Smoot, R. C. Webb, Mrs. Paul Lewis and Mrs. J. W. Davenport.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

Church Builders' Day - February 20

(From page 3)

or other initial aid—not a penny for overhead! That's better than the firemen's plan!

Methodists Adopt Plan

The Methodists of Georgia have copied our plan, but are asking every member to pledge \$10 for each new church.

My Trip To Cleveland

(From page 6)

we are a field under God's cultivation, or a house being built to his plan. "I, like an architect who knows his job, by the grace God has given me, lay the foundation: someone else builds upon it; I say this, let the builder be careful how he builds: the foundation is laid already, and no one can lay another, for it is Jesus Christ Himself." (I Cor. 3:9-11)

After reading that and hearing the inspiring talks on how to build our world on the foundation that is already laid by Jesus Christ, I asked God to let me, as president of the women of Alabama, to help them build to His plan. I hope that we can go forward in this next year with God and His plan in our hearts and minds and with that we will be able to build the right kind of world that God would want His children to live in.

I wish that every woman in Alabama could have enjoyed the fellowship and seen the beauty of the blanket of snow that I had the privilege of enjoying. I want to thank you for making it possible for your president to attend these meetings, and I hope that I can now be of more help to our women as a result of all I learned there.

—Miriam Fralic, Tallassee, Ala.

Superintendent's Page

(From page 7)

ganization capable of analyzing and evaluating and capitalizing upon our opportunities of church extension, strengthening and revitalizing our existing churches, and launching an effective program of advance which will enable us to assume our responsibility in an over-all Protestant Strategy worthy of the New South.

Never has there been more activity among our churches; never have the bonds of fellowship been so strong; never has there been such a spirit of hope and expectancy. Never has there been such an opportunity to serve the Kingdom. Let us rise up and build churches—churches aware of their mission and equal to the task.

—Erston M. Butterfield

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

East Association Rally

The first of a series of Fifth Sunday Rallies for the East Alabama Association met at Beulah Church, Wedley, Ala., on January 30. The Rev. Wallace Roberts preached the opening sermon.

After a dinner served at the church, James Dollar led the Sunday School superintendents in a discussion on the duties of the superintendent, and the moderator of the association, the Rev. Goff Bedford, spoke on "What Is the Congregational Christian Church?"

Seventeen churches of the association were represented with 79 people registered in attendance. Of the visiting church representatives, Alexander City Hunt was first with 15 present; Lanett was second with 8; and Noonday was third with 7.

The Committee on Ministry reported on the work of the Convention Committee and noted that a number of our ministers are taking courses as set up by that committee. Plans for a deacon training program was briefly outlined. The Rev. John Dollar is chairman of this committee.

The Rev. David W. Clark, chairman of the Evangelical and Worship Committee, was absent, but the Moderator made his report. All churches are requested to work up a list of all absentee members and send them into a central location, the Lowell Church in Roanoke. From these lists, the committee hopes to learn where our members have moved. We are particularly interested in trying to organize a church in Opelika and need the names of those living in the Opelika-Auburn area who will be interested in helping with such a project. It was also hoped that each church would send to Rev. Clark the date of its preaching Sunday, or Sundays, the date of its revival and the Evangelists, so that association-wide publicity might be given to these projects.

The Missions and Stewardship Committee, the Rev. Lynwood Hubbard, chairman, reported on the giving to Our Christian World Missions, pointing out that three-fourths of this money remains in the Convention area for our work. It is hoped that churches will continue to give, even more than they have pledged. Five churches have not sent in anything—one of these has not had services for over a year and another is badly disorganized. The remaining three will no doubt make substantial gifts in the near future. The Committee urged every church to set up a budget and an Every Member Canvass.

The Religious Education Committee, the Rev. E. S. Fetner, chairman, reported a continuation of the Fifth Sunday Rallies.

It was voted that the next rally would be held in the Daviston, McGuire's Chapel Church, the Fifth Sunday in May, and that the Rev. John Dollar would be the closing preacher.

—Rev. A. Goff Bedford

Southern Union News

Southern Union College is enjoying its best year to date. Student enrollment for the Winter Quarter is 133, five more than the previous record enrollment of the Fall Quarter.

Dr. Sherwood Eddy and his wife internationally known evangelist, author and traveler, visited the campus, January 17, 18 and spoke twice to the students and guests.

Professor and Mrs. Frank Smith of Berea College were on campus for ten days to lead a varied program of recreation instruction.

The Southern Union Glee Club is again this year singing in nearby churches. Senior Classes from neighboring high schools are being invited to spend the day visiting the college and learning of its program. Wednesday, February 23rd will be Southern Union Day when most of the students of Southern Union will be returning to their home high schools to speak to seniors of the opportunities available at the college.

The Board of Trustees held its annual meeting at the college on February 1st. Trustees attending from outside the state of Alabama included Mrs. May R. Flickinger of Washington, D. C.; the Rev. Richard A. Wolff of Lynn, Mass.; Emerson P. Poste of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Rev. Warner C. Carpenter, Douglas, Gar.; and Supt. Edston M. Butterfield of Atlanta. Further information on the proposed program of expanding the physical facilities of the college will appear in a later issue. New Trustees elected at the annual meeting were: Dr. Arthur C. Decker, Troy, Ohio; the Rev. Earl Douglas, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Percy Julian of Chicago, Ill.; and the Rev. Ludwig Emigholz of Cleveland, Ohio.

1955 SOUTHEAST CONVENTION MEETING

Tuesday and Wednesday
April 19 and 20

Central Congregational Church
Atlanta, Georgia

All ministers in good standing are official delegates. In addition, each church is entitled to three voting lay delegates and as many visiting delegates as it desires to send.

Plan now to attend!